A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, November 13. 1711.

IN my laſt, I have given my farther Thoughts of the Dangerous Greatneſs of the Emperor, in Caſe the Kingdoms of *Spain* ſhould be annex'd to him; and indeed I thought no-body would have Diſputed it with me ——— I obſerve, and I think it very hard, that any one ſhould Argue, that I am, by the Conſequence, Pleading for the *French* Intereſt; and that to keep it from the Emperor, was to Transferr it to the King of *France* of courſe.

But, *as I ſaid before*, I am as averſe to this, as to the other; I ſee no neceſſity why we ſhould be in awe of either of them; and this is that happy Neceſſity which I have hinted, that Heaven has brought us to, *viz.* To the Recognizing the *Partition-Treaty* ——— And I beſeech thoſe Gentlemen who are ſtill againſt a *Partition* in *Europe*, to tell us fairly and openly, what they would do with the *Spaniſh* Monarchy ——— And let us Examin calmly,

1*ſt*. The Safety and the Danger in giving it all to the Emperor; let them them tell us what Securities, *for that is now the Word of Mode*, the Emperor, who they know is Elective by a Majority of *Popiſh* Electors, can give the

the Proteſtants, to ſecure them, or us, againſt the future Greatneſs of ſuch Bigots as may come after him — Let them tell us, if *France* and an Emperor, as they are now oppoſite, ſhould ever join in a Religious War in *Europe*, a Thing few foreſee, *but which has not been ſo far off as ſome imagin*, What a Condition ſhall we be in then? And how ſhall our Poſterity have leiſure to Repent our Politicks, and Curſe their Fathers who Erected a Power in *Europe*, which all their Strength and Blood will not pull down?

3dly. Why ſhould we not take the Occaſion God and Nature now put into our Hands; And ſince the *Spaniſh* Monarchy is the Thing that turns the Scale of Power in *Europe*, let us tear it in as many pieces as we can, and by giving ſome to this Hand and ſome to that, divide not the Dominions only, but the Intereſts of it?

And now I have nam'd this kind of Diviſion, I ſay a *Partition* of Intereſts, I muſt give you my Notions of it——Which perhaps have not yet been conſider'd with due Weight ——— I have offer'd you none of my Schemes in all theſe Caſes; and tho' I am ſometimes concern'd at the Injuſtice of it, I cannot but ſmile too, when I hear Men Argue with me upon ſuch and ſuch Heads, which they find in Pamphlets about Street, *as mine*; Books which I am ſo far from Writing, that I never read them, *but let that go*; what I write, I will, God willing, not be aſham'd or afraid to own.

I have offer'd at no Schemes *of Partition*; I have made no Eſſays at the Diviſion I ſpeak of, nor of the Perſons to whom it ſhall be Divided; but this I lay down as a ſtated Rule in the Caſe of a *Partition*, if ever ſuch a Thing ſhall come upon the Stage, *viz.* That there be a *Juſt Partition* of the Intereſts of the Reſpective Dominions—— I explain myſelf thus, in ſhort, reſerving to myſelf a farther Explanation of it, when it ſhall be more proper.

1. *If any of the* Spaniſh *Monarchy be given to the Emperor*, it ſhould be thoſe Parts which, as they now ſtand, may ſerve to make the Kings of *Spain* any Way Dependant upon *France*.

2. *If any of the* Spaniſh *Monarchy ſhould be given to King* Philip, it ſhould be ſuch Parts, as moſt interfere with the Intereſt of *France*, and ſerve to make thoſe two Monarchies uneaſie to one another —— And thoſe which moſt Naturally and Particularly, whether for Protection or Commerce, depend upon the Confederates.

That there are ſuch Places to be found, and that a Partition may be thus made, is beyond Queſtion true, and I dare offer, without any Arrogance to Name them, if it were to my purpoſe.

3. *If any of the* Spaniſh *Monarchy ſhall be Poſſeſs'd by the Allies*, let it be ſuch Parts as they can maintain the Poſſeſſion of, and as may put them in a Poſture to preſerve the Conditions of the reſt of the Partition, and ſo may be a ſufficient Security for the Treaty, without truſting to the Faith, Word, or Honour, of any Princes at all.

Nor is this difficult to do neither——— With ſuch a Partition, all your Notions of the Infidelity of *France*, and the *French* King's regarding not the Faith of Treaties, die and vaniſh; and all my Notions of the Greatneſs of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, die alſo ——— I join with all your Complaints, of Breach of Treaties, and every Side are full of them; therefore, I ſay, *truſt none of them*: Why may you not hold the Reins in your own Hands, and put your ſelves into a Poſture always to prevent the Breach of Faith on one Side or other?——Now is your Time to do it—— Now you may break the *Popiſh* Bands of *Europe*, and put the Ballance into the Proteſtants Hands; *if you reject it*, you betray the Proteſtant Intereſt, and reject the Occaſion God has offer'd you,

you, of making the Protestant Power Superiour to the *Popish*.

Wretched blind Generation! Whither does your Party-Fury lead you? Open but your Eyes to the State of *Europe*, and you may see the *Popish* Powers now at your Mercy—— You may now divide them; you may now weaken them; you may now render it impossible for them ever to Unite again, so as to hurt you: You may now put it into your own Power to crush them hereafter, and to laugh at their Crusado's against the Protestant Religion—— Now you may make them so dependent upon you, so subservient to you, so afraid to break with you, and so easie to Subdue, if they should Attempt it, that your Interest will be Establish'd in the World; the Protestant Religion will be secur'd beyond the Insults of Popery, and *the Mountain of God's House shall be exalted above the Top of the Mountains*.

Curs'd be the Party-Rage that prompts us to reject these Advantages; and if they should be rejected, we shall live to see our selves the Instruments of Casting away our own Mercies, and God shall bring about the Deliverance of his Church some other Way.

Are we Protestants, and consider not these Things? Is the Interest of Religion of no Weight with us? Is it impossible there can come such a Thing as a Religious War in *Europe*? And will you think it worth none of your Thoughts to strengthen your selves against it?—— I have nothing to do with Parties in this, *New Ministry* or *Old Ministry*, let who will Manage; but I know who Manages you all, if your Eyes are shut by your Party-Feuds, against the visible Interest of God's Church, and the Advantages which now offer to you, to Establish the Protestant Interest on a Foundation of Power which can never be Overthrown.

This is to be done NOW, by breaking the Jaws of the *Popish* Lyon, and bringing her to a Posture of Dependance upon the Protestant Powers of *Europe*, both for her Safety and for her Bread.

The *Swedes* were once your Deliverers, or you had all been Ruin'd by *Austrian Greatness*; King *William* was once your Deliverer, or you had been undone by *French Greatness*; Where do you think to have another *Gustavus Adolphus*, or another *William*? ——God has put an Opportunity into your Hands, not to want them any more for ever; and as King *William* said in his last Speech to the Parliament, If you throw it away, you ought not to expect another; *Non licet in Bello bis Peccare*.

I confess, I am amaz'd at the Infatuations of this Age; Here we are falling out about Making Peace, even before we Enquire what Advantages lie before us, and what may be obtain'd in it —— We don't like the Party, and therefore don't like the Peace; for God-sake, and for your own Sake, will ye be *One Party* but in this *One Thing*, and fight it out afterwards among your selves, as long as you will.

Be all of a Party in this, Enquire into the Particulars offer'd, and if a Good Peace is not to be had, *in God's Name make War*, go on with the War, till you can make a Good Peace.

If *a Good Peace* may be had, tell me *in whose Name you will make War*, if ye refuse it?

Oh, but the King of France *is low, and if we push him heartily, we may have what Terms we will*—— Suppose it —— And will you tell us what these Terms shall be, if you had your Will? I say you will fall out as much about it Then, as Now; You say you will give up all *Spain* to the Emperor; Really, as it was said in another Case, *you know not what Spirit you are of*; you would no more give all *Spain* to the Emperor, than you would give it *France*; you would not be so Distracted as you tell us of —— In short, you would fight to gain what you would fight about dividing, if you had it—— Now therefore is the Time to divide it, before you have it —— And to divide it so, as that the Protestant Interest shall be strengthned, and the Popish Interest weaken'd in the World by it, past the Power of its Enemies ever to Recover.

Oh,

Oh, but we will give it all to the Emperor; Why then you will be Mad, you will act againſt common Senſe, againſt the *Senſe* of all *Europe* at all Times— *Againſt the Senſe* of all the Confederates — *Againſt the Senſe* of the Grand Alliance; nay, *againſt the Senſe* of the Emperor himſelf, I mean he that was Emperor at that Time; and I offer to make it appear, That at the Time of the making the Grand Alliance, neither the Emperor, or the *Engliſh*, or the *Dutch*, had it ſo much as in their View, or Deſign, to annex *Spain* to the Emperor, NO, nor had they reſolv'd, or ſo much as thought of who it ſhould be given to; for King *Charles* was not mention'd till near two Years after —— But *ſome Satisfaction* was to be made to the Emperor, FOR *his Pretenſions*, ſuch as ſhould be *Equitable and Reaſonable*—— And *ſome Satisfaction* was to be given the Allies, for their Safety, ſuch as ſhould be ſufficient to Secure *their Countries, Kingdoms, and Commerce*: Theſe are the very Words of the Grand Alliance, if they are not, let me be Confuted; if they are, then let any one tell me, whether this War was intended to give all the *Spaniſh* Monarchy to the Emperor, any more than to the Great *Turk*?

But we are Bewitch'd into Notions made Popular by Party, and *the whole Spaniſh Monarchy*, *Preliminaries*, and *Securities*, are grown Phraſes, Terms of Art, like a Gypſie Cant among us, to ſignifie we know not what, and to hinder, not others from Underſtanding us only, but indeed to hinder us from Underſtanding one another.

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